



Department of Texas

NEWS BULLETIN

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Chartered by Act of Congress 1932

November 2011

from the DAV Department Commander

MEMBERSHIP, GOLDEN CORRAL;
Membership, Golden Corral; membership,
golden corral. Notice how the letters in the
previous type seems to become less and less
important? That is how some DAV Members
see the Golden Corral event. This is a
partnership between Golden Corral and the
Disabled American Veterans. This is not
only a time for eating, it is a time of
fellowship with veterans from all periods of
service, all branches and a time for
fundraising/membership.

★ KEN HACKNEY
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It is also a time for promoting the Disabled
American Veterans as the only veterans'
organization, chartered by Congress that deals
exclusively with veterans disabled during their
wartime service. Some people who attend,
veterans and the general public, have never heard
of the DAV. They do not know what we represent.
They are not aware of what we do for veterans and
their families.

Many of those you will meet are waiting for a
chance to assist in taking care of our veterans.
They just need a little prod. That is where you
come in. Be at these Golden Corral locations.
Make a show of force. Talk to people. Thank the
veterans for their service. Solicit their membership
and a donation to help our cause.

This is a time for us to make the Disabled American
Veterans shine. So get out there, shine for your
Chapter, your District, your Department and the
National Organization. You are the front line
soldiers. So put your best foot forward.

This month also represents Veterans Day. Let
every veteran you see know that you appreciate
them and what they have done for the cause of
freedom. Attend the Veterans Day functions. After

all, you are a veteran. For that I am thankful for
you.

So, now let us continue with our mission of:

GOLDEN CORRAL and MEMBERSHIP!

Thank you for your service.

**Because of you, I live free
in a land of freedom.**

from the DAVA State Commander

It is clear that the key to OUR organizations
future is membership. Without growth we
will cease to exist.

Did you know that there is a new incentive
in place? If you sign up five new senior
members you will receive a Service Star
lapel pin PLUS by recruiting just one senior
member you will be entered into a monthly
drawing to win one of two \$25 cash awards.
Even more exciting is that the Top Auxiliary
Recruiter of the year as of June 30, 2012 will
receive \$250. That would certainly come in
handy!

Also, keep in mind that our eligibility requirements
were expanded to include extended family of
disabled veterans.

A unit project that you may consider is joining DAV
CAN which is a grassroots effort in keeping your
elected official informed as to the latest veterans'
issues. You can sign up on the DAV web Page at
www.dav.org. You will be provided with links to
elected officials, post cards, sample letters to
newspaper editors, phone calling information and
much more.

While attending the National Fall Conference I was
proud to watch our own National Commander Patti
Rapisand. She represented our organization
superbly. Her theme SAME TEAM...SAME DREAM is

★ CRAIG JOHNIKEN
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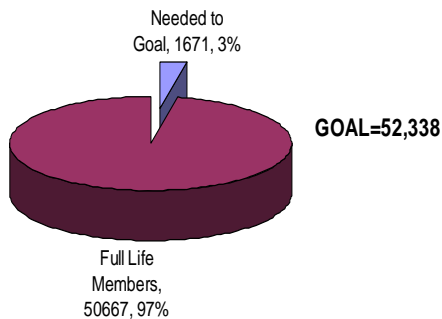
Visit us online at www.davmembersportal.org/tx

certainly something for each of us to remember as we work through our units projects.

Don't forget Veterans Day on November 11th. I hope every unit across this great state has a project, parade or a school visit where DAVA can be a part of spreading our message.

I wish each of you a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

needed to Goal 1,671



★ MEMBERSHIP GOAL
FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012

from the DAV Membership Chairman

Here we are at the start of November and so many opportunities await us in recruiting. First, we have Veteran Day Celebrations all around the state. In Waco, we will kick off our Veterans Day Parade at 11:00 AM on November 11th. These parades are exciting, not only to participate in, but to watch as well. If you have one in your area, be sure to attend. Oh, and take your membership applications with you. There will be lots of eligible veterans in the crowds, so wear your hats and shirts so people will know you belong to America's Best Service Organization. Sign them up!!!

Next, we have our Golden Corral's celebrating Veteran's Appreciation Day on November 14th. Again, wear your DAV hats and shirts. This is a **GOLDEN** opportunity for recruiting and fund raising. We owe a great debt of thanks to the managers and staff of the local Golden Corrals in their efforts to support us.

I would encourage each of to make an effort to sign up at least one member this year. If we each recruit just one new member, just think about the results. Let's work hard to make our goal this year. If I can help any of you in any way, please feel free to contact me.

★ TOM PARKER
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from the DAV Adjutant

REMINDERS

- ★ All chapters that are participating in Golden Corral – please mail 50% of the donations that are collected to Department Headquarters upon completion of the event.
- ★ If your chapter participates in any Veteran's Day activities please forward photos and information to me for possible use in the monthly bulletin

★ TERESA JOHNIKEN
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from the DAVA Adjutant

This month I would like to bring to you a brief overview of the National Fall Conference in Cincinnati, OH. As always, we had an outstanding group from Texas. National Commander Patti included a variety of activities and talks from the Past National Commanders in addition to the presentations by all the National Chairmen. There were no changes to the programs. Again this year there was a Carnival on Friday afternoon where each chairman had a booth and the members had to answer questions to receive a prize. It was a delightful addition to the conference. There is a new project that is being rolled out this year. It is called Kids helping Kids. The Golden Corral has a camp they sponsor in which children of active duty personnel and veterans can attend at no cost to the families. However, the issue is that of travel expenses. At the Fall Conference the members in attendance voted to provide financial support by sponsoring children and paying their travel expenses. The goal is to raise as much money as possible. This can be accomplished by all means of donations. The Junior Activities Chairman, Ann Geldie, advised that our theme will be Kids helping Kids. This will allow for our Junior members to collect their change and have it sent to National Headquarters. All your Juniors whether they are actively attending your meetings or live in areas in which they cannot attend can all participate. So let's join this special project and help some children spend a week at camp.

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have already held our Annual State School of

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Instructions. I hope that many of you will have attended. However, if you didn't and would like some information, please drop me a note and I will forward to your unit a copy of any handouts given by the chairmen. Commander Craig, the chairmen and I have attempted to put together an informative program with plenty of discussions. I enjoyed being the Instructor this year. If any members have any questions that they would like answered, please forward them to me via some form of mail and I will answer them monthly in my article. As I am sure that other members might have some of the same questions. Remember sign up those new members and let's reach out to them and make them feel welcome.

from the DAV District I Sr Vice Commander

I pray that you and all your family members are in the best of health and spirit. I would like to send my deepest thanks to all, who's kept my mother and family in prayer. My family and I are going through tough times at the present time due to my mother's illness. She is now recovering at a rehab home in National City California, who is doing a tremendous job in her treatment. But not out of the woods yet. I want to thank, Ed Meiser and Chapter 187 officers and members for their support. We are truly blessed in District 1 with showing comradeship and concerns for each other. That is why the DAV is a great organization. Again, thank you and God Bless.

★ Dave Garcia
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I apologize to all the chapter commanders for not communicating with you and keeping you informed. But, bear with me, and we will continue our mission in helping each other. The month of November is going to be a busy month for all the Chapters in District 1. Beginning with Veteran's Day, try to participate in a Parade or Special events in your area, so that DAV and Chapters can be recognized on this very special day for all who served our great nation. To include: the Military Appreciation Night at the Golden Corral, the main event is on November 14. This is also an opportunity to set up from the 1- 13 November as an outreach for membership and to collect donations. Let us not forget Thanksgiving in helping our veterans in this time of need. I challenge every Chapter in District 1 to do their

best in accomplishing your mission. Good luck and God speed.

I would also like all the Chapter Commanders and representatives to contact me the following day with your donation count. It will give me time to submit my report to the department. Thank you for your support. I wish everyone a blessed Veterans Day. Also, enjoy your Thanksgiving Day with your family and friends.

Let us never forget our fallen comrades and family members, and keep our soldiers in harms way in your prayers. God Bless the USA and the DAV Organization.

from the DAV District II Commander

Once again another month has passed us by: With winter coming on please take care, and be safe through the Holiday seasons coming up. I really want you all to be safe in your travels this holiday season. John Whitley Ch. 106 Sr. Vice for Dist. II will be going to Tyler in January to get things finalized for the Dist. II meeting in March. Once again I want to let you know Ch. 70 P.O. Box 917 Decatur TX. 76234 will be the Hosting Ch. for the Dist. meeting so all donations will need to be sent to Ch. 70. For all you DEER HUNTERS good luck this year with your hunting, once again make SAFETY FIRST on your hunting list. In Dist. II there are still a lot of people out of jobs so when you can lend a helping hand please do so, we the Disabled American Veterans are all about PRIDE and RESPECT. So this Thanksgiving and Christmas please remember all our Men & Women that are not going to be home this year with their families because they are defending our rights to still be a free Nation. God Bless you all

★ BOBBY HARRIS
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from the DAV District III Commander

The month of November is upon us. We just finished Halloween, and the Holiday season is getting alarmingly near. This month we have Thanksgiving, and then Christmas and New Years. It seems only last month that we had the 2011 District III Meeting, and here we are deep in planning for the 2012 District III Meeting, to be held this year at the Shilo Inn in Killeen. This month is also noted for celebrating the veterans in our communities with Veterans

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Day which is November 11th by decree of the Federal Government. I know that we in Palestine are going to have the traditional Veterans Day Parade, which will include all the veterans' service organizations in the area: The DAV, the American Legion, the VFW, and the VVA. We in Palestine also make it a point to include the Sheriffs Department, the Palestine Police Department, the area Voluntary and paid Fire Departments, and all the other organizations whose members are vital to the defense and well being of the citizens in the area. This is a time when the nation pauses to honor the veterans who gave so much in defense off their country. As the saying goes, "All gave some; some gave all...." May God bless those and their families who gave all.

We will be getting out to you more about the 2012 District III Meeting in Killeen. We want to be sure that the information we give you is accurate, and timely.

from the DAV District IV Commander

Great news, the VFW won a monumental victory for our deceased veterans and their families this month in the Federal Lawsuit (Rainey v VA) filed over allegations of religious hostility and unlawful censorship at the Houston National Cemetery.

Federal District Judge Lynn N. Hughes signed a consent decree ordering the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to: **lift the ban on prayer and the word "God" at national cemeteries**

Revoke national policies hostile to religion and reopen the Chapel at the Houston VA National Cemetery (Its identity had been changed to a "meeting facility.")

We also had our Homeless Veterans Stand-down last week, with the Commander of James T. Hall Chapter 9 leading the way, thank you Commander James King. We're also looking forward to participating with all of our veterans on Veterans Day, in parades and ceremonies in and around the Houston Metro area and surrounding areas, and participating in the annual Golden Corral event, I encourage you one and all to get out and get involved in events that are in support of our service men and women, that's what the Disabled American Veterans are all about service. Let's continue to support veteran's membership because

★ ISAAC BAZILE
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that is life's blood of the DAV.

Remember our host Chapter for the 2012 District Meeting, let's support them and encourage other chapter members and chapters to do the same. Letters have already gone out to the different chapters asking for support in this event. I believe it will be a meeting to remember and that it will be enjoyed by all who attend let's help to make it a success.

from the DAV District V Commander

Homeless Veterans: BRAVO ZULU to Chapter 5 (San Antonio). On 28 September 2011, DAV Alamo Chapter 5 members attended the Bexar County Veterans Burial Program at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery here in San Antonio, Texas. The burial cost for our homeless Veterans was donated by Roy Akers Dignity Burial services. About 50 Veterans from various Veterans Groups attended the ongoing burial program to honor our fallen homeless veterans here in Bexar County.

★ JAVIER PATRON
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Ceremony: BRAVO ZULU to DAVA Chapter 61 (Seguin). On October 15, 2011, The Disabled American Veterans' Auxiliary officially held a Grand Opening Ceremony on its new Veterans Comfort Zone (VCZ) housed at the DAV Chapter 61 House. The VCZ is under the direction of the DAV Auxiliary Unit 61, a non-profit 501(c) 4 organization. The VCZ is open to all veterans in the Seguin area and beyond. The VCZ is a place where all walks of active military, veterans and their families can come for help and information on their entitled VA

benefits and other resources available to them, all at no cost to them.



STAND UP FOR VETERANS,
and may God Bless America

from the Women Veteran Coordinator

First Female Recipient of the Bronze Star

The first woman to receive The Bronze Star was 1Lt Cordelia E. Cook, Army Nurse Corps, during WWII in Italy. Lt Cook was also awarded The Purple Heart, becoming the first woman to receive two awards.

Source:

<http://userpages.aug.com/captbarb/firsts.html>

What services are available to women Veterans?

A full continuum of comprehensive medical services, including health promotion and disease prevention, primary care, women's gender-specific health care; e.g., hormone replacement therapy, breast and gynecological care, maternity and limited infertility (excluding in-vitro fertilization), acute medical/surgical, telephone triage, emergency and substance abuse treatment, mental health, domiciliary, rehabilitation and long term care. To enroll in VA health care or find a facility, visit myhealth.va.gov. VA researchers at many VA facilities also conduct medical research on women's health.

Source:

<http://www.va.gov/WOMENVET/docs/25FAQs-March2011-FINAL.pdf>

★ JENNIFER KELLOGG
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BPT/Legislative Report

Once again we come to the "Marching Season", parades on Veterans' Day. Wherever there is a parade near you, join it if you are able. The citizens of our great country, and our great state, need to SEE the price of freedom. Our departed comrades, those that gave all, cannot be there to be recognized but we can march in their memory.

We will also have the Golden Corral event again this year. Plan to help your chapters by being there the Monday after Veterans Day (5-9pm). It is a good time to raise money for your chapter and to recruit new members. A free meal is not bad either.

A couple of items of good news. On the state level we have authorization to include the word Veteran on our Drivers Licenses. This will be useful for ID at those businesses that provide a veterans' discount. At the Federal level there has been enough movement in the Consumer Price Index to create a rise in the Social Security payments/cost of living. Since Veterans Benefit increases were tied to Social Security, by Law, last year we will see a Cost of Living Increase (Unless Congress specifically cuts it as a "Deficit Reduction Item"). Some hope for us.

Please stay in touch with your US Representatives and Senators. I have the opportunity to read many of the letters that are sent to Washington, DC and the responses. The response that always "frosts my chops" is: the "benefits we have provided to Veterans".

Provided –Heck – We earned them. All veterans gave up part of their lives (in Economics 101 that is called "Opportunity Costs") and Disabled Veterans gave up physical and mental abilities. The folk in DC that say "We elected them" and "They Represent Us" have not invested nearly as much in this countries freedom and the opportunities they enjoy. Our business community may have invested money and skill but that is not nearly the value of The physical and mental limitations WE accepted to guarantee their economic well being. WE too have invested. We are not asking for anything we did not earn. They are NOT GIVING US ANYTHING so - do not accept a statement of; "we gave you".

If you listen to the "dialogue" in DC you will note that ALL members of both parties are already running for election. This is your opportunity, as they come home on various "breaks" to let

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them know how you feel about the lack of dialogue. They all speak English – some also speak another language so they should understand us and each other. They all swore Allegiance to the same Flag and Constitution. They all swore the same oath of office by a Supreme Being/God. They all represent the citizens/constituents/us of these United States. They all have their salaries (unreduced) from the US taxpayers. There is NO reason to subject Disabled Veterans and active duty military personnel to the fiscal trauma of political brinkmanship just so “points” can be made for a segment of some political persuasion.

Please, for yourselves and your disabled comrades –RECRUIT new members. We must keep our voice strong. Please, stay in contact with your elected officials at all levels of government – they all spend money. Always be courteous but also, always be firm – we are disabled veterans, we paid the price of freedom and we do remember our friends.

from the DAV VAVS Chairperson

Not only are the Thanksgiving and the Christmas Holidays right around the corner, but now is also the time to be thinking of special individuals who you would like to see recognized for their contributions in helping disabled veterans and promoting the DAV over the course of this past year.

The particular award I am talking about is in the VAVS Program known as the “Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Award.”

In order to qualify for nomination, the candidate must be 21 or under, and must have a minimum of 100 hours in the previous calendar year. All volunteer hours must be credited to the DAV. Hours accumulated under the Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP) are also eligible for consideration.

One nomination from each VA facility within the state may be accepted. In addition to Department Commanders and VAVS Program Managers, the student may also complete a self-nomination form. Nominations may also be received from DAV Chapters, DAVA Units, and all DAV and DAVA Representatives and Deputy Reps.

Detailed information concerning the award itself, volunteer opportunities, volunteer benefits, and eligibility as well as nomination forms can be found on the National DAV website---www.dav.org under Voluntary Services.

★ ED MEISER
Edgar_meiser@msn.com

There are many youth volunteers across the state that are very deserving of this award recognizing them for their patriotism in being dedicated to helping our disabled veterans. Please give them a chance.

Meanwhile, I thank you in advance and appreciate all you will be doing during this time of Thanksgiving to ensure that our less fortunate comrades will have a blessed day with their families and loved ones.

Happy Thanksgiving and God Bless You,

from the DAV Chaplain

My Fellow Comrades:

I greet you under Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with the blessings of His scripture. His Love For You - Romans 8: 38-39 I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angel nor principalities nor power, nor things present or things to come, nor height nor depth, nor things created, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. I pray daily for our disabled veterans throughout our nation. If ever there is a need or special request please know that am available by simply asking me. You voted for me and I desire to honor any special requests you might have.

Peace Be With You My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

★ MEIZIE LOFTON
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Items of Interest

On Tuesday, November 8th, 2012, a Constitutional Amendment election will be held. One proposition directly affects the Texas veteran community: Propositions 1. Full details follow.

Please distribute this message to your individual members, encourage them to get registered to vote, and to vote for the passage of Proposition

General Information

In the 2011 Regular Session, the 82nd Texas Legislature passed 10 joint resolutions proposing amendments to the state constitution, and these proposed amendments will be offered for approval by the voters of Texas on the November 8, 2011, election ballot.

★ ACROSS THE STATE

The Texas Constitution provides that the legislature, by a two-thirds vote of all members of each house, may propose amendments revising the constitution and that proposed amendments must then be submitted for approval to the qualified voters of the state. A proposed amendment becomes a part of the constitution if a majority of the votes cast in an election on the proposition are cast in its favor. An amendment approved by voters is effective on the date of the official canvass of returns showing adoption. The date of canvass, by law, is not earlier than the 15th or later than the 30th day after election day. An amendment may provide for a later effective date.

From the adoption of the current Texas Constitution in 1876 through November 2009, the legislature has proposed 646 amendments to the constitution, of which 643 have gone before Texas voters. Of the amendments on the ballot, 467 have been approved by the electorate and 176 have been defeated. The other three amendments were never placed on the ballot, for reasons that are historically obscure. See the online publication *Amendments to the Texas Constitution Since 1876* for more information.

The *Analyses of Proposed Constitutional Amendments* contains, for each proposed amendment that will appear on the November 8, 2011, ballot, the ballot language, an analysis, and the text of the joint resolution proposing the amendment. The analysis includes background information and a summary of comments made during the legislative process about the proposed constitutional amendment by supporters and by opponents.

Proposition

1

Allowing surviving spouse of disabled veteran to receive homestead tax exemption

SJR 14 Van de Putte (C. Anderson)

Background

Texas Constitution, Art. 8, sec. 1(b) requires that all real and tangible personal property be taxed in proportion to its value unless exempted as authorized by the Constitution. Art. 8, sec. 1-b(i),

added in 2007, authorizes the Legislature to exempt from property taxes all or part of the value of the residence homestead of a veteran certified as having a service-related disability of 100 percent or as totally disabled. Tax Code, sec. 11.131 fully exempts the value of the residence homesteads of 100 percent or totally disabled veterans from property taxes.

Veterans are considered 100 percent disabled based on the extent of their physical disability. Total disability is based on employment capability. A veteran may qualify for the tax exemption under either disability category, as defined by the federal Veterans Administration.

Digest

Proposition 1 would authorize the Legislature to allow the surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran to receive a property tax exemption for a residence homestead if the disabled veteran qualified for the exemption when the veteran died. The exemption would be the same portion of the market value of the same property to which the disabled veteran's exemption applied. A homestead would qualify if:

- the property was the residence homestead of the surviving spouse when the disabled veteran died;
- the property remained the residence homestead of the surviving spouse; and
- the surviving spouse had not remarried since the disabled veteran died.

Proposition 1 also would authorize the Legislature to allow the exemption to follow the surviving spouse to a new homestead if the surviving spouse had not remarried after the death of the disabled veteran. The exemption would be limited to the dollar amount of the exemption for the previous qualifying homestead as of the last year in which the surviving spouse had received the exemption.

The change would apply starting with the tax year beginning January 1, 2012, and would apply only to tax years after that date.

The ballot proposal reads: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran."

Disabled American Veterans
Bulletin
Department of Texas, Inc.
3003 N Medford
Lufkin, TX 75901

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To:

THE DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS WISHES ALL OF YOU A BLESSED
AND SAFE THANKSGIVING

